

## Plenary Sessions

### 1. Plenary Session 1

#### Global Models of Emergency and Disaster Management Systems and Their Development for Asia

*Knut Ole Sundnes, MD, DiPH*

President, World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM), Oslo, Norway

A global model is created either by an official and world-wide process of endorsement or by dissemination based on recognised standards. Political tactics and strategies have proven to be as important as has been the professional content. Few, if any, models for Disaster Management have been endorsed globally.

In principle, there may be no differences between generic models applicable to Emergency Management Systems and Disaster Management Systems. The practical differences, however, are considerable and significant.

The term "emergency" defines a wide range of situations with immediate needs including Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) and disasters. The term "chain of survival" developed for cardiopulmonary arrest (the first Utstein Template), was expanded to Disaster Medicine at the 2nd Nordic Congress on Disaster Medicine. For Emergency Medicine, however, in addition to the "chain of survival", the concept of Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) is widely recognised. Nevertheless, for EMS, only parts of it will be subject to global modeling, since EMS must be tailored to the region it serves, unless it also functions as a coordinating body for disaster response and assistance from outside.

In addition to providing structure and framework, global models must identify and allocate responsibilities and obligations. Often, hundreds of organisations are involved and, consequently, some must be subordinate to others. Without a strong command-and-control (C2) system that includes a strong national representative, this hardly ever is achieved. When international society assumes control alone, a conflict between the UN-Charter and the UN-Resolution, the "right to intervene", exists. Furthermore, disaster aid must be defined as a human right within a "global insurance system", disregarding a nation's ability to pay its "premium". Solidarity, both within and between nations, is a key virtue, but the widening gap between rich and poor, also within and between nations, is counterproductive in this respect. Thus, global models must include the United Nations system, the World Health Organization, and key humanitarian organisations (e.g., Red Cross systems), in addition to the countries ratifying or abiding by them.

A global model also must draw attention to pre-event activities such as prevention and mitigation, including technical and judicial topics. In addition, a national inventory of all infrastructure, hardware, and software, is mandatory. A global model must address technical and operational questions; team composition as well as provide command-and-control; judicial/legislative questions including obligations,

rights, and border control; prevention, mitigation and economics. Compatibility is essential, but the recipient country normally provides the yardstick simply because disaster-prone countries traditionally have the weakest economy. As a rule, high-tech solutions for global models will be unsustainable.

Asia comprises 31% of the total world area, but suffers 40–50% of all natural disasters. With 58% of the world's total population, it has accounted for 70% of all disaster-related deaths since 1950. During the last decade, 90% of all people reported affected by all types of disasters were Asian. Civil strife and war have been ongoing and numerous, as have other man-made, technical "accidents."

The types of disasters, ranging from heavy snowstorms to tropical cyclones, are as diverse as is Asia itself. The geography ranges from tropical to arctic. Asia has the highest mountains and the deepest ocean. Some countries are enormous archipelagos, while others are landlocked deserts or mostly mountainous. Disparate military alliances and political systems, in addition to the 2,165 registered languages using 13 different alphabets found in Asia hamper communication. However, these diversities and differences should be viewed not as incompatibilities or counterproductive obstacles; instead, they provide a unique source to increase knowledge and insight into disasters and their pathophysiology. In Asia, strengthened communication and collaboration between all institutes and organisations involved with disasters are mandatory. Much focus is given to operational Disaster Management.

A model is not global unless it works for Asia, whereas a model functioning for Asia has all of the qualities needed to be endorsed globally. The Utstein Template for Disaster Research is today, perhaps the only model that is on the verge of global endorsement. The model identifies fourteen basic societal functions. Properly implemented, its use should facilitate worldwide disaster research and help the identification of the generic elements needed to be included in any global model for operations.

**Keywords:** Asia; disaster; emergency; global; model; Utstein Template

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### Plenary Session 2

#### Recent Advances in Blood Transfusion: Their Impact on Defence Medicine

*Colonel (Retd) Michael John Glyn Thomas, MA (Cantab), MB, BChir, FRCP (Edin), LMSSA, DTM&H*

Clinical Director, The Blood Care Foundation, United Kingdom

War is the greatest disaster known to man. In addition, as wars often erupt with little or no warning, they also can be classed as "emergencies". Because of the ever-changing nature and increasing sophistication of modern weaponry, it is vital that defence medical planning is aware of these changes and reacts accordingly. Modern warfare has moved away from the concept of large set piece battles involving large numbers of troops, to smaller conflicts, that erupt

often at long distances from the area in which the troops are based. These so-called "Fire Brigade" actions require the ability for rapid deployment of highly mobile troops, often over long distances. In addition, although the number of casualties are likely to be less because the number of troops deployed is reduced, the severity of the wounds now is greater due to the increased stopping power of modern weapons.

The advent of compact mobile computers has allowed sophisticated planning to be performed in the field. However, such equipment can break down, be lost, or destroyed, and so, it still is the best principle to keep planning as simple as possible. The requirement for rapid deployment has also increased the use of air transport. Air transport can be used to evacuate casualties. This will allow all but the most immediate surgery to be performed outside the battle zone, often in the soldier's own country. However, if large numbers of wounded are to be brought home, it is essential that adequate liaison is established with the civil medical authorities, so that the civilian population is not put at risk.

Rapid air transport also increases the availability of blood. Blood-transport boxes have been developed, allowing blood to be transported safely for periods in excess of 72 hours, and small, mobile thermoregulator blood banks are available, with capacities varying from 40 to 3,000 units of blood. Blood donation and processing now is carried out in the home blood transfusion centres, where the degree of quality control is much higher than would be possible under field conditions.

With supplies of blood being delivered from the home base, the need for field donor sessions is greatly reduced. However, bad weather or enemy action may prevent such deliveries and a fallback plan must be in place. Newly developed, solid-phase grouping and screening kits have improved both the convenience and safety of testing in the field. New additive solutions (OASs) are being developed that will extend the shelf life of concentrated red cells (RBCs) to longer than 3 months. These will reduce the demand for blood during the build-up phase of an operation, with a consequent reduction in wastage. The latest generation of cell salvage machines are so compact as to be easily deployed in a field role. Recent research has shown that cell salvage is a practical technique, even when the wound potentially is infected, as would occur in a missile injury to the abdomen. Cell-free, oxygen carrying resuscitation fluids (CFOCRFs) are about to be licensed for clinical use, one a haemoglobin solution and one perflourochemical. Both of these products can be stored at room temperature and have a shelf life in excess of two years.

Currently, it is impossible to transport platelets by air. However, with the increasing severity of blast injuries, disseminated intravascular coagulopathy (DIC) is encountered more frequently. Experience from the Gulf War showed that it is feasible to deploy the latest compact apheresis machines and produce platelets in the field. These machines also can provide fresh plasma, thus, obviating the need for freezers in which to store fresh frozen plasma. The US Army recently has developed a fibrin bandage, that can be used to pack wounds and arrests bleeding

almost instantaneously. Once this becomes available commercially, it may have a dramatic effect on blood requirements and could reduce mortality from major trauma.

**Keywords:** blood; casualties; cell salvage; fibrin bandage; field; transport; war

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## Plenary Session 3

### The Use of Performance Indicators in Planning an Effective EMS System

*A/Prof Jerry Overton, MPA*

Executive Director, Richmond Ambulance Authority  
Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine,  
Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth  
University, USA

The planning, implementation, and management of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems historically have been influenced by local political, cultural, and economic conditions with minimal consideration given to the role of EMS as the initial provider of care in the health care continuum. Recently, evidence-based research has proven the potential of EMS for reducing mortality, and as a result, expectations have increased in the governmental and medical communities.

To meet expectations while maintaining economic viability, EMS systems continually must assess performance and outcomes. The development of performance indicators is the foundation for establishing strategies for planning and implementing an effective EMS delivery system. The identification of accurate data sources, establishment of predetermined measurement intervals, and the reporting of relevant information are prerequisite for establishing effective performance indicators.

Once developed, performance indicators assess current performance, identify existing and potential problems, and assist in the proactive development of solutions. Understanding performance indicators and their application can impact all phases of EMS administration. The measurement of basic and advanced clinical procedures, response methodologies, response time intervals, resource development and utilization, and cost per transport are specific indicators that provide necessary tools for system management. Results from studying these specific components, along with others, then can be reviewed collectively to help establish a strategy for the design and implementation of an optimum system design that meets the needs of the patient and community.

**Keywords:** emergency medical services; EMS; performance indicators; planning; outcome

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